

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR
DEVELOPMENT (UNCSTD) 2ND PREPCOM

REF: GENEVA 1148

1. SUMMARY. DURING FIRST WEEK OF WORK, PREPCOM HAS
REVIEWED PROGRESS REPORT OF SYG. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS
VOICED CRITICISM THAT CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT DEVOTED ITS
WORK ALMOST ENTIRELY TO ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES WITH
SCARCE CONCRETE STEPS FOR BETTER DEFINING AND ACHIEVING
SUBSTANTIVE OBJECTIVE OF CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION PROPOSED SECRETARIAT PREPARE
ANALYTICAL DOCUMENTS SUMMARIZING NATIONAL PAPERS TO
INSURE FULL UTILIZATION OF THESE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS
DURING PREPARATORY PERIOD OF CONFERENCE.

3. SWEDEN, ON BEHALF OF NORDICS, STRESSED NEED TO
RECOGNIZE THREE MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES: FIRST, RESPONSI-
BILITY OF LDC'S IN DEFINING THEIR POLICIES FOR SELF-
RELIANCE IN S&T; SECOND, DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD ASSIST
LDC'S IN BUILDING THEIR INDIGENOUS CAPABILITY FOR S&T,
BY ALLOCATING FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR THIS
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PURPOSE; THIRD RESPONSIBILITY ALSO OF INDUSTRIALIZED
COUNTRIES IN RECOGNIZING THE NEED OF SHAPING DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIES FOR THEIR OWN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE IN HARMONY
WITH ASPIRATIONS AND NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

4. UKDEL STRESSED THERE IS NO SHORT CUT TO DEVELOPMENT
AND THAT MANY PROBLEMS CONFRONTING LDC'S CAN BE SOLVED BY

APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE ALREADY POSSESSED BY LDC'S
RATHER THAN BY NEW TECHNOLOGIES TRANSFERRED FROM
ELSEWHERE.

5. CANADIAN DEL, WITH REFERENCE TO INADEQUACIES OF
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DOCUMENTATION FOR CURRENT PREPCOM SAID THAT GA PROVIDED
SYG WITH INCREASED RESOURCES AND STAFF WHICH SHOULD BE
ADEQUATE FOR EFFECTIVE DOCUMENTARY PREPARATION.

6. FRG DEL REMARKED THAT TERM "NEW SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ORDER", USED BY SOME LDC SPEAKERS, COULD
PRODUCE MISUNDERSTANDING THAT S&T ARE AIMS IN THEMSELVES.
SINCE S&T ARE ONLY INSTRUMENTS FOR BRINGING ABOUT
SOCIO/ECONOMIC CHANGES, IT IS PREFERABLE TO SPEAK ABOUT
"NEW POLICY" FOR S&T DEVELOPMENT.

7. NETHERLAND'S REPRESENTATIVE TOOK ISSUE WITH SYG
STATEMENT THAT "INTERMEDIATE OR APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY"
MAY HAVE REACTIONARY INTENT AND BE VERY NEGATION OF
DEVELOPMENT, AIMED AT FREEZING THE EXISTING PATTERNS OF
DEVELOPMENT. NETHERLAND DEL STRESSED THAT DIVERSITY OF
TYPES OF ASSISTANCE DEPENDENT ON LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES
AND DEGREE OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT MUST NECESSARILY BE TAKEN
INTO ACCOUNT TO ACHIEVE REALISTIC RESULTS.
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8. COMMENT. DISCUSSION OF SYG PROGRESS REPORT AND
DELEGATION'S STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN LOW-KEY AND FAIRLY
ROUTINE, AND HAVE PRODUCED NEITHER LIVELY DEBATES NOR
SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF CONFERENCE
OR SHARPENED FOCUS OF ITS PRACTICAL PREPARATORY
ACTIVITIES. AS EVIDENCED ABOVE PARAGRAPHS, MOST STATEMENTS
REMAINED WITHIN CONCEPTS ALREADY WELL ESTABLISHED IN
PREVIOUS PREPCOM AND CSTD DEBATES ON CONFERENCE.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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